Reports of Medical Inspection of School Children.

ORDER No. E. 2238--EDN. 426-30-4, DATED 11TH DECEMBER 1931.

At the Legislative Council Session of December 1928, in answer to an interpellation by Mr. D. H. Chandrasekharaiya, Government promised to consider the feasibility of publishing a synopsis of the reports of the Medical Inspectors of Schools in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore.

The appended statement is published for general information in accordance with this promise. It shows the nature and extent of the various defects and diseases occurring among the school children of the two Cities, as disclosed by the reports of the Medical Inspectors for the three years 1928-29 to 1930-31. It will be seen therefrom that a large number of children suffer from ailments, which if not attended to in time, will seriously impair their health and physique for the rest of their lives. The reports also show that parents, either through indifference, poverty, want of time or other cause, generally neglect to carry out the instructions of the Medical Inspectors. As mere inspection not followed up by remedial action would serve no useful purpose, Government have recently directed the linking up of such inspection with curative agencies in the following manner:—

In District and Taluk Headquarters, the Medical Inspector who is the local Medical Officer has himself to give the treatment necessary, and to maintain a special register, which will indicate the ailments of the pupils and their treatment. This register will be checked periodically and necessary instructions given to the Medical Officer by his superiors.

In the Bangalore and Mysore Cities, the Medical Inspectors are required, in the case of small ailments, to give prescriptions which will be attended to in any of the local Dispensaries.

As regards more serious ailments which may require treatment at the hands of specialists and possibly, even involve an operation, the patients are to be asked to meet the Medical Inspector at specified hours on a Sunday in the Victoria or the Minto Hospital, as the case may be, in Bangalore and the Sri Krishnarajendra Hospital at Mysore, where it will be his duty to direct them to the specialists concerned, make a note of the treatment suggested, and keep a proper record of the same. In the case of operations, however, the previous consent of the parents or guardians of the children will have to be obtained.

Besides the above, departmental action has also been taken to ensure vaccination of pupils, to provide suitable desks for them and to instil into them hygienic and sanitary habits.

R. RANGA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.